



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES OFFICE OF MANAGED CARE

Bulletin No: 04-01

FEBRUARY 25, 2004

Provider Bulletin

RE: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF FOURTH DOSE OF PNEUMOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Practice (AAFP) have jointly recommended that healthcare providers temporarily suspend routine use of the fourth dose of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7) for healthy children. The recommendation was made to conserve vaccine and minimize the likelihood of shortages caused by production and supply problems at Wyeth Vaccines, the only supplier of the vaccine in the United States. The manufacturer has advised CDC that vaccine supply is likely to be limited through mid-summer or later.

The fourth (booster) dose is normally given to children at 12 to 15 months of age, who have received three primary doses of the vaccine. Healthcare providers should move to a three-dose series of one dose at two months, one dose at four months, and one dose at six months for non-high-risk children. Providers should continue to administer the fourth dose to children at increased risk of severe disease. (Please see attached table.) Children whose booster dose is deferred should receive PCV7 on their first visit after supplies return to normal. This recommendation is not expected to have any adverse health consequences for children.

All providers receiving vaccine from the Los County Immunization Program (IP) are advised to immediately implement the above recommendations, regardless of the amount of vaccine in their inventory.

If you have any questions, please contact your IP Area Field Unit or call IP at (213) 351-7800.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to conserve our supplies of PCV7 so that more children can receive the benefits of this important vaccine.

Source: Letter dated February 17, 2004, signed, A. Nelson El Amin, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director, Immunization Program, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services



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